

VOX NOSTRA

Vol. XIII

MAY 2025

No. 5

Dear Rev. Fathers, Deacons, Brothers and Sisters,

1. A SHEPHERD'S LEGACY: REMEMBERING POPE FRANCIS- SERVANT OF HOPE

With profound sorrow, we join the universal Church in mourning the passing of our beloved Holy Father, Pope Francis on 21 April 2025. A shepherd with the heart of Christ, he led us with humility, courage, and boundless compassion. His deep love for the poor, his tireless call for peace, and his unwavering emphasis on mercy have left a lasting imprint on the soul of the Church and the hearts of the faithful. Pope Francis reminded us that the Church is a place of healing and welcome for all. He showed us how to walk with the wounded, speak truth with tenderness, and care for our common home with reverence. In his simplicity, he revealed the grandeur of God's love. His departure leaves a profound void, yet his enduring legacy of love, humility, and unwavering dedication to the Gospel will continue to illuminate our path.

Pope Francis, from his very first moments as successor of Peter, embodied a radical simplicity that resonated deeply with the faithful. He chose the name Francis, a clear indication of his commitment to the poor and marginalized, echoing the spirit of St Francis of Assisi. He reminded us that the Church is not a self-serving institution, but a field hospital, ready to heal the wounds of a broken world.

His teachings, articulated through his encyclicals and apostolic exhortations, challenged us to confront the pressing issues of our time. *Laudato si'* called us to ecological conversion, recognizing the interconnectedness of all creation and our responsibility to care for our common home. *Evangelii gaudium* urged us to embrace the joy of the Gospel, becoming missionary disciples who reach out to the peripheries. *Amoris laetitia* invited us to accompany families with

compassion and understanding, recognizing the complexities of modern life.

Pope Francis' reforms sought to revitalize the Church, ensuring that its structures reflected the Gospel's call to service. He emphasized synodality, encouraging dialogue and collaboration at all levels of the Church. He championed transparency and accountability, working tirelessly to address the scourge of clerical abuse. He promoted a culture of encounter, urging us to build bridges with people of different faiths and backgrounds.

His pastoral visits, marked by warmth and genuine affection, brought hope to the downtrodden and marginalized. He embraced the sick, the elderly, and the imprisoned, reminding us that every human being possesses inherent dignity. He spoke truth to power, advocating for justice and peace in a world often plagued by conflict and inequality.

In his humility, he reminded us that we are all sinners in need of God's mercy. He encouraged us to cultivate a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, the source of our strength and hope. His emphasis on mercy was not a sign of weakness, but a powerful expression of God's love for humanity.

As we reflect on his life and ministry, let us remember his key teachings:

- * The Church as a field hospital: A call to service and healing, reaching out to those who suffer.

- * The joy of the Gospel: A reminder that our faith should be a source of joy and evangelization.

- * Care for creation: A call to ecological conversion and responsible stewardship of our planet.

- * Mercy and compassion: A reminder of God's boundless love and our call to extend it to others.

- * Synodality and dialogue: A call for collaborative decision-making and open communication within the Church.

- * Humility and service: A reminder that true greatness lies in serving others.

Pope Francis' legacy is a call to action. Let us strive to embody his teachings in our daily lives, building a Church that is truly a beacon of

hope and a witness to God's love. May his soul rest in peace, and may his example continue to inspire us to live lives of faith, hope, and charity.

As we entrust his soul to the eternal embrace of the Father, we give thanks for the gift of his life and pontificate. May we honour his legacy by living the Gospel with joy, justice, and compassion. The Diocese of Udipi joins the universal Church in mourning the passing of our beloved Holy Father, Pope Francis.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.

2. PRAYERS FOR THE NEW POPE

As the Church mourns the passing of Pope Francis, we now turn to the Lord in hope and prayer for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the election of a new Supreme Pontiff. This is a sacred moment for the Universal Church—a time to be united in prayer and trust. As the conclave for the election of the Pope begins on 07 May 2025, I invite all our priests and religious to include in your daily intentions a special prayer for the College of Cardinals, that they may be enlightened by the Holy Spirit to choose a shepherd after God's own heart—wise, courageous, and filled with love for all. Let us storm heaven with our prayers, that the one who is chosen may lead the Church in fidelity, unity, and peace, for the glory of God and the good of all humanity.

3. ST JOSEPH THE WORKER AND JUBILEE OF WORKERS AND ENTREPRENEURS- 1 MAY 2025

The Church celebrates the feast of St Joseph the Worker as International Workers' Day on May 1. St Joseph, the husband of Mary and foster father of Jesus, was a carpenter who supported the Holy Family through his daily labour. His example highlights the concept of work, and the fact that the Holy Family worked for a living is seen as a connection point with most of the world's families. May St Joseph the Worker motivate us all to recognise the dignity of labour and accord due respect to all those who work in our parishes and institutions.

According to the plan for the Jubilee 2025 for our Diocese, **01 May 2025** is dedicated to the Jubilee of Workers and Entrepreneurs and therefore it should be meaningfully celebrated, honouring their

contribution to the parish in particular and to society in general in all parishes in association with the Commission for Labour. In its message for May Day titled “Holy Year of Hope: A Call for Solidarity with the Unorganised Workers”, the Office of Labour and Workers India Federation (WIF) of CBCI invites us to reflect on the Church’s unwavering commitment to the marginalised. Rooted in the teachings of *Fratelli tutti*, it calls for universal fraternity that values the dignity and contributions of every worker, fostering a more equitable society. The message has already been posted in the Chancery WhatsApp group. Let us support all the initiatives of the Commission for Labour in carrying out its objective of especially caring for the migrants and labourers in the Diocese.

4. WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS/JUBILEE OF VOCATIONS - 11 MAY 2025

The Fourth Sunday of Easter, this year 11 May, is known as **Vocations Sunday** or **Good Shepherd Sunday** and is marked as the **World Day of Prayer for Vocations**. The purpose of this day is to fulfil Jesus’ instruction to “Pray the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into his harvest” (Matthew 9:38). While appreciating all vocations, the Church concentrates her attention on vocations to Holy Orders and to the consecrated life - while encouraging all who are discerning their vocation to pray more earnestly that they may hear and respond to God’s call. According to the plan for the Jubilee 2025 for our Diocese, **11 May 2025** is dedicated to the Jubilee of Vocations and therefore it should be meaningfully celebrated in association with the Commission for Seminary, Formation and Religious.

In his message, titled “Pilgrims of Hope: The Gift of Life”, Pope Francis recalls that every vocation—be it to ordained ministry, consecrated life, or the laity—should offer the world a sign of God’s hope for every person. He noted that young people frequently feel dismay and confusion when they look to the future, given the background of insecurity, identity crises, unjust treatment of others, and general indifference. “Yet the Lord, who knows the human heart, does not abandon us in our uncertainty,” said the Pope. “He wants us to know that we are loved, called and sent as pilgrims of hope.” Every vocational

call, he said, ignites in us a desire to love others and serve them, rather than a means of self-promotion.

5. JUBILEE OF MARIAN DEVOTIONS - 13 MAY 2025

As per the plan for the Jubilee 2025 for our Diocese, **13 May 2025** is dedicated to the Jubilee of Marian Devotions and therefore it should be meaningfully celebrated in all parishes. On this day, the Church celebrates the optional memorial of Our Lady of Fatima, who appeared to three shepherd children in Portugal in 1917. Marian devotions include pilgrimages, visits to Marian shrines, small sacrifices in her honour, and devout recitation of the Rosary. Let us thank our Lord for the generous gift to us of His mother and for allowing her to come to us at Fatima. She continues to invite us to renewed hope, to deeper conversion of our hearts to Christ, and to remind us of her loving intercession before her Son for all our needs and prayers. Let us strive to teach Marian devotion to our children and the young in our parishes. I also encourage, wherever suitable, to organise community rosaries at parish or ward levels. It is appropriate that as priests and religious, we too practise this devotion that nourishes our day-to-day spiritual life and provides spiritual strength in our pastoral ministry.

6. JUBILEE OF COMMUNION AND CONFRATERNITIES – 18 MAY 2025

18 May 2025 is dedicated to the Jubilee of Communion and Confraternities as per the plan for the Jubilee 2025 for our Diocese. Fraternities are basically Christian voluntary associations, often coordinated by lay women or lay men to promote charitable works, devotional life, or a particular mission in the Church. Well-known examples include the Society of St Vincent de Paul, Knights of Columbus, National Council of Catholic Women, Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Order of Malta, and Knights of Peter Claver, among many others. Let us meaningfully celebrate the jubilee of Confraternities in association with the Society of St Vincent de Paul, bringing together and celebrating all persons and organisations in the parish who are at the service of the poor and the marginalised after the example of Christ the Lord.

7. JUBILEE OF CHILDREN – 25 MAY 2025

The plan for the Jubilee 2025 for our Diocese calls us all to celebrate the jubilee of children on **25 May 2025**. The World Day of Children, established by Pope Francis and first celebrated in 2024, is a Catholic Church initiative to address the needs and rights of children globally. It is a joyful and meaningful occasion that centres on the voices, dignity, and rights of children. I urge all parishes to celebrate the jubilee of children by gathering children, celebrating a special mass for them, and encouraging them to pray for peace, especially for their peers suffering from war and injustice.

8. FAITH FORMATION CAMPS - THANKS

It was heartening to note that a few parishes organised faith-formation camps for children in April on topics related to Faith, the Bible, etc. I wholeheartedly thank and congratulate the parish priests for these initiatives, which certainly form a part of their pastoral ministry. I also request the other parish priests to take the initiative and organise faith-formation camps for children for 2-3 days in May with the help of Catechism teachers and the youth.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ 

+ **Gerald Isaac Lobo**

SILVER JUBILEE OF SACERDOTAL ORDINATION

Rev. Fr Vincent Coelho, Parish Priest,
Holy Cross Church, Byndoor

01.05.2025

CONGRATULATIONS DEAR REV. FATHER

COMMUNICATION FROM PASTORAL COMMISSIONS

1. COMMISSION FOR LITURGY

- 04 May - Seminar for Parishioners and the Liturgy Group of
Katapadi Parish
- 07 May - Seminar for the Liturgy Group of Perampally Parish
- 18 May - Seminar for Parishioners of Perampally Parish
- 25 May - Diocesan-level Seminar for Parish Liturgy Coordinators
and One Representative from Each Parish

Rev. Fr Wilson D'Souza
Director

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MAY 2025

For working conditions

Let us pray that through work, each person might find fulfillment, families might be sustained in dignity, and that society might be humanized.

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